

ABSTRACT

INFORMATION ACCESS

5 An apparatus and method are provided for accessing sets of information stored in an information system. A user submits search criteria to an information retrieval tool (120) via a user interface (132). From those sets of information referenced in a corresponding response by the information retrieval tool (120), the user may indicate at the user interface (132) that one or more are relevant. The

10 identity of each relevant set of information is noted by a monitor (135) and recorded in a store (140) together with a history of search criteria used on this and subsequent occasions to retrieve the relevant set of information. For each set of information identified in the store (140), a weighting is calculated for each corresponding search criterion, the weighting being indicative of the proportion of

15 users who, on using the search criterion with the retrieval tool (120), identified the set of information and found it relevant. Documents identified in the store (140) may be grouped by information category and those search criteria having a weighting in excess of a predetermined threshold in respect of each document in the group are identified for use in subsequent searches in that information

20 category.

Figure (1)